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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED AT THE LAST SESSION,

A REPORT

OF THE

Number and Conditions of the Contracts which have been made for the supply of Arms for the United States, since the adoption of the Constitution, &c. &c. &c.

FEBRUARY 11, 1818.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

WASHINGTON:

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1818.

1891

LETTER

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DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

10th February 1818.

SIR,

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed at their last session, directing the Secretary of War to report to that House at their next session, "the number, and conditions, of the contracts which have been made for the supply of arms for the United States, since the adoption of the present constitution, specifying the loss, if any, which the public have sustained by the non-fulfilment of such contracts, or by the advance of money on account of the same; together with any other information he may possess, tending to show the advantages or disadvantages attending that mode of obtaining arms, compared with that of national armories; and that he report therewith, the amount of money expended in each of the present national armories, the number and species of arms there manufactured, and the number and species of arms repaired," I have the honor to transmit a report from the Ordnance office, marked A, a letter from the second Auditor, marked B, and one from the third Auditor, which exhibit all the information in the possession of this office.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With very great respect,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.

*The Honorable,**The Speaker of the House of Representatives, U. S.*

A.

A STATEMENT of the number and species of arms manufactured, and the number and species of arms repaired, at the National Armories, and also, the moneys expended at those works; exhibiting a view of the whole, from the period of their first establishment, and according to accounts received, and on record in the Department of Ordnance. January, 1818.

Armory, Harper's Ferry, Va.						Armory, Springfield, Mass.				
Years.	Muskets made.	Muskets repaired.	Rifles made.	Pistols made.	Total amount expended, including purchases, buildings, repairs, &c.	Years.	Muskets manufactured.	Muskets repaired.	Carbines manufactured.	Total amount of expenditures, including purchases, buildings, repairs, &c.
1798, & 1800	-	-	-	-	\$ 59,908 32	1795	245	-	-	\$4,495 75
1801	293	-	-	-	27,201 81	1796	838	-	-	15,392 25
1802	1,472	-	-	-	29,334 33	1797	1,028	-	-	18,863 80
1803	1,048	-	-	-	28,697 58	1798	1,044	-	-	19,157 40
1804	161	-	780	-	31,313 71	1799	4,595	-	-	84,299 23
1805	-	-	1,716	-	31,262 17	1800	4,862	-	-	64,924 94
1806	136	-	1,381	-	41,908 80	1801	3,205	-	-	50,328 94
1807	50	-	146	2,892	40,631 28	1802	4,358	-	-	30,142 55
1808	3,051	-	-	1,208	104,952 63	1803	4,775	-	-	32,459 74
1809	7,348	-	-	-	158,835 13	1804	3,566	-	-	43,312 64
1810	9,400	691	-	-	145,042 30	1805	3,535	-	-	45,937 25
1811	10,000	1,392	-	-	139,707 59	1806	2,018	-	-	42,674 01
1812	10,200	2,113	-	-	161,772 01	1807	5,692	-	-	55,304 64
1813	9,000	612	-	-	183,663 93	1808	5,870	-	-	103,174 71
1814	10,400	548	1,600	-	144,010 81	1809	7,070	1,086	600	122,469 31
1815	5,239	-	1,469	-	125,335 82	1810	9,700	1,406	602	131,556 47
1816	6,416	23	2,052	-	227,286 87	1811	12,020	-	-	114,151 26
1817	8,513	-	2,726	-	177,533	1812	10,140	-	-	139,340 07
						1813	6,020	11,105	-	104,958 48
						1814	9,585	5,475	-	102,632 64
						1815	7,279	21,145	-	151,456 37
						1816	7,199	5,129	-	155,951 65
						1817	13,015	454	-	187,138 08
Total,	82,727	5,379	11,870	4,100	\$1,858,398 09	Total,	128,559	45,800	1,202	\$1,820,122 18

REMARKS.

The amount expended at this armory in 1817, is - \$177,533
 Muskets manufactured - 8,513
 Rifles manufactured, 2,726, equal in labor, to - 3,770

Total number of muskets, 12,283

In order to ascertain the precise cost of each musket, the following deduction should be made:

Probable amount of expenditures for repairing mill dam, laborers employed thereat, &c. - 2,500

Actual expenditure. Dolls. - 175,033

From the above deduction being made, it would result, that the actual cost of muskets at this armory, will be, \$14 25 each.
 Stock and tools, and unfinished work on hand, estimated at \$256,000.

REMARKS.

The actual expenditure in the manufacture of arms at this armory, in 1817, - \$187,138 08

In order to ascertain the precise cost of each musket, the following deductions should be made:

For muskets which have been repaired at the armory, in 1817, - \$2,000 00

For inspection of contract arms, by officers of the armory, and by orders of the Ordnance Department, in 1817, - 1,236 68

For making arm chests, - 1,392 00

For manufacturing screw drivers, - 1,040 00

For purchases of additional ground, and building, erected in 1817, - 4,975 00

10,643 68

\$176,494 40

From the above deductions being made, it would result, that the actual cost of muskets at this armory, will be \$13 56 each.

The stock on hand, and parts of work done at this armory, is valued at \$111,545 56.

GENERAL REMARK.

It may in addition be remarked, generally, that though the above sums appear to have been expended in the manufacture of arms, making their apparent cost at the rates stated, there were other expenditures at both armories, such as transportation of arms to and from the armory, with other incidental expenses, which have not yet been reported, and which would render the actual cost of the arms still lower. The value of the public buildings, grounds on which they are erected, and the adjacent lands belonging to the national armories, may be estimated to be at least, one hundred thousand dollars each.

Ordnance Department, January 31, 1818.

G. BOMFORD, Lt. Col. of Ordnance.

(B.)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Second Auditor's Office,**4th February 1818.*

SIR,

On the subject of the resolution of the House of Representatives, in relation to contracts for arms, and the expenditures at the national armories, I have the honor to state, that this office has had no agency in the formation of any contract for the supply of arms. Copies of such as have been entered into by the Ordnance Department, have been furnished me, with a view to aid in the settlement of the accounts of the contractors—all such appear to be in a fair train for completion; there being at present no reason to suppose that any loss will be sustained by the United States, in consequence of the advances made on said contracts. Several contracts for arms were entered into some years ago by Tenche Cox, late purveyor of public supplies, four of which, have not been fully complied with, and on which the following sums remain to be accounted for, viz.

By I I Brooke,	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,000	00
Oliver Bidwill & Co.	-	-	-	-	-	7,869	00
Wheeler and Morison,	-	-	-	-	-	3,487	50
John Mile,	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	00

All papers in relation to these incomplete contracts have, by order of the acting Secretary of War, been put into the hands of Callender Irvine, Commissary General, for the purpose of recovering the sums, by legal process, he having attended to the settlement of the accounts of the late purveyor, and he alone is competent to say, whether any loss is likely to accrue to the United States under them.

As to the advantages, or disadvantages, attending a supply of arms by contract, compared with that of national armories, I cannot make a proper estimate, it depending on contingencies not within my knowledge.

On a comparison of the statement furnished by the Ordnance Department, of the expenditures at the public armories, with the books of this office, I find it to be correct from the 1st day of July 1815, up to that date, all the books of the late office of the Accountant of the Department of War were turned to the additional accountant, and are now in the office of the Third Auditor.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM LEE.

*The Honorable J. C. Calhoun,
Secretary of War, Washington*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Third Auditor's Office,**January 31, 1818.*

SIR,

I do myself the honor to state in regard to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the last session, relative to contracts for arms, and expenses of armories, that when the Acting Secretary of War furnished me with a copy of the resolution, I informed him verbally that I had not settled any accounts in relation to either subject, as additional accountant or Third Auditor; that as it regarded the contracts for arms, they were by law confided to the Treasury Department, anterior to 16th July, 1798, and all the accounts settled there; that thenceafter it became the duty of the Secretary of War to form the contracts, and the duty of the Accountant to settle the accounts. Hence so far as it regarded that branch of the inquiry, the information was to be obtained from those sources, and in regard to the armories, it was the duty of the Accountant until the act of the 3d March last, when it was made the duty of the Second Auditor to credit those accounts. The information, consequently, in relation to the armories, would properly come from the Second Auditor, who succeeded the late Accountant. No measures were taken therefore by me to comply with the resolution.

With great respect,

Your obedient Servant,

PETER HAGNER,

*Auditor.**The Honorable**The Secretary of War.*



